

Low back pain - phcy

PHARMACISTS have the potential to take a lead role in the primary care management of people with acute low back pain, according to a study published in the *Australian Journal of Primary Health*.

The research, out of the University of Sydney, The George Institute for Global Health, UTS and Concord Repatriation Hospital, investigated pharmacists' views on implementing a care program for people with acute low back pain in the community pharmacy.

Participating pharmacists were receptive to the idea of implementing a care program for people with low back pain, highlighting the need for adequate reimbursement and adequate training of staff to ensure it is successful, authors wrote.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

Guild seals MoU with China



PHARMACY Guild of Australia president George Tambassis has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Guild and the China Medical Pharmaceutical Material Association (CMPMA).

Speaking at the China-Australia-

New Zealand Complementary Health Product Expo in Melbourne yesterday, Tambassis said the agreement will allow both parties to work together for mutual benefit and for the benefit of health care consumers in both countries.

While the Guild's prime objective is to represent pharmacy owner members, Tambassis said, the organisation also aims to maximise the benefit that pharmacies can contribute to the health of Australians.

"And I know that patient health and welfare is also a priority of our colleagues and counterparts from China," he summarised.

Collaboration between the Guild and the CPMA may include provision of evidence-based health products, marketing and business support services, insurance, education, supply chains and logistics, e-commerce, business processes & platforms as well as conferences & exhibitions.

Tambassis is pictured above centre with the CMPMA's Sunny Sun and Mr Ma Shou jun.

30 tries to quit cigs

NEW research challenging the widely held belief that it takes around seven tries to quit smoking, has shown that for many smokers it may take 30 or more quit attempts before being successful, which may help manage clinical expectations.

The Canadian/US research, published in the *BMJ Open*, said that previous estimates of the number of quit attempts required to finally quit may be underestimating the average number of attempts as these estimates excluded smokers who have greater difficulty quitting and relied on lifetime recall of number of attempts.

CLICK HERE for the research.

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Entresto saves lives

SHORTLY to be funded in Australia, angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor sacubitril/valsartan was associated with a reduction in cardiovascular mortality, all-cause mortality, and hospitalisations compared with enalapril, according to a cost-effective analysis out of the UK, Switzerland, Canada and the US and published in *JAMA Cardiology*.

Eligible patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction will benefit most with extended life and reduced hospitalisation, both of which contribute to the cost effectiveness of the drug combination, researchers said.

Correct use of the product can potentially lead to the prevention of thousands of premature deaths and hospitalisations for patients with heart failure, authors said.

CLICK HERE for the publication.

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PSA trial agenda

THE upcoming PSA16 conference will have a strong focus on pharmacy practice innovations from the 6CPA Pharmacy Trial Program (PTP).

The event will include a high level panel session focusing on the progress of the 6CPA PTPs and their relevance to the future role of pharmacists.

Chaired by PSA executive director of Policy, Advocacy and Innovation, Dr Alison Roberts, panellists will include Consumer Health Forum of Australia ceo Leanne Wells, Guild president George Tambassis, and Penny Shakespeare from the Health Department - more at psa.org.au.



Guild Update

Backing community pharmacy

WITH JUST a few days to go to the Federal Election, Guild Members will this week be receiving printed copies of the letters of support for community pharmacy received from the major political parties.

During each Federal Election campaign the Guild invites the parties to submit letters for distribution to all Members for their information.

The Guild has received election letters from the Liberal Party, the Nationals, the Australian Labor Party, the Australian Greens and the Nick Xenophon Team. The election letters should arrive in member pharmacies this week, and can also be accessed on the Guild's website at www.guild.org.au/advocacy.

It is clear there is strong cross-party support for community pharmacy and enhancing its role.

Mayne buys US generics

AUSTRALIAN listed pharmaceutical manufacturer Mayne Pharma this morning confirmed a binding agreement to acquire a portfolio of US generic products from Teva and Allergan.

The US\$652 million cash deal covers 37 approved products along with five FDA-filed items in "attractive markets with limited competition across a range of therapeutic areas," the firm said.

Teva has been ordered to divest itself of the products by the US Federal Trade Commission, in connection with its proposed acquisition of Allergan's generic drug business.

Mayne Pharma ceo Scott Richards said the acquisition transforms

the company's Generic Products Division into a top 25 player in the US retail generics market.

"This attractive portfolio spans multiple dosage forms and complements our expertise in higher value, niche, differentiated products," Richards said.

"The on-market products have strong shares in stable, mature markets while the pipeline products are expected to deliver additional growth in attractive markets as they are launched over the next couple of years".

New PI standard

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has reminded pharmacists that the revised professional indemnity (PI) insurance standard becomes effective from this Fri 01 Jul 2016.

Minor changes require policies to have retroactive cover and automatic reinstatement, along with additional detail about third party and run-off cover, the need to conduct a self-assessment, required evidence of PI arrangements and consequences of not meeting the standard.

Beware King-Wolf

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a warning about a product called King-Wolf tablets, saying they pose a serious risk to health.

Analysis has found the product contains the undeclared prescription-only substance sildenafil, and supply is illegal.

Win with Nexcare™ Brand

Every day this week Pharmacy Daily and Nexcare Brand are giving away a prize pack valued at over \$40.00 that includes Nexcare™ Waterproof Assorted and Medium sized Bandages, Nexcare™ Blister Waterproof Bandages and Nexcare™ Absolute Waterproof Tape.

The Nexcare Brand Waterproof range includes:

- Nexcare Waterproof Bandages: watch Nexcare Nana tackle water, dirt and germs whilst wearing Nexcare Waterproof Bandages
- Nexcare Blister Waterproof Bandages: winner of the Wound Care category in the 2016 Product of the Year Award by Nielsen; as voted by 14,422 household consumers



For more information **CLICK HERE**.

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What product is Nexcare™ Nana wearing in the videos?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Henry Huynh from Macarthur Cancer Therapy Pharmacy.



DISPENSARY CORNER

HERE'S a new beauty phenomenon - the "polish mountain" (pictured below).

These somewhat impractical thick, multi-coloured piles of polish are a result of YouTube beauty vlogger Christine Rotenberg's efforts to apply a layer of the each of the entire 116 nail polishes that she owns.

The idea came from her subscribers and the video has now clocked up 12 million views.

The task took a painstaking 12 hours to complete as she let every layer dry before applying the next.

Rotenberg has dared her subscribers to try it out and share their results on social media using the hashtag #polishmountain.

Time to up-stock nail polishes!



DIGESTING the world's hottest chilli sauce may call for an extra dose of Mylanta double strength!

In fact, two Californian men who attempted to consume it recently during a local pub challenge wound up in hospital with severe stomach pains.

Run by the The George Pub and Grill, the challenge sees the winner get a full refund on the super spicy meal they consume - what an incentive!

Both of the men ended up in the gastrointestinal ward at the University Hospital of North Tees.

Ethan Rawlinson, 25, told the *Daily Mail* digesting the chilli sauce left him "unable to walk, suffering swollen intestines, severe cramping and loss of stomach lining."